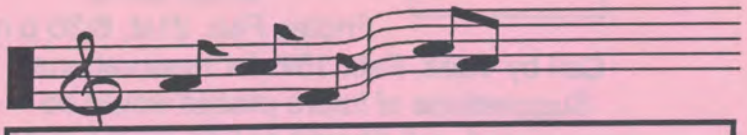
OPEN Arms

February 1997 * Vol. 9 Number 2

P.O. Box 845 Mishawaka, IN 46546



WGCS, 91.1 FM presents "A WOMEN'S CIRCLE" every Sunday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

OPEN ARMS WOULD LIKE TO ESPECIALLY THANK OUR PHOTO-COPYING FRIEND, DIANE, FOR HER SUPPORT OF THE NEWSLETTER. IF NOT FOR HER EFFORTS, THE COST OF PUBLISHING THE NEWSLETTER WOULD HAVE RISEN OVER THE PAST YEARS. AGAIN, THANK YOU!!

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MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE
for Womyn & Children
1650 West Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church,
Andersonville, Illinois
(773) 477-8362
"ROMANTIC & EROTIC POETRY"
Vernita Gray, Donna Rose, Diane Gomez and their friends present an unforgettable night of romantic and erotic poetry.
Get yourself in the mood for Valentine's Day!!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 7:30 p.m.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the Mar. newsletter is Feb.15th. Submissions received after Feb.15th may not be published in the March newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms,* P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.
Newsletter Meeting Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m. For information 271-0338

1996-97 DANCE

Bringing in the New Year was indeed a **Dee-Lite**. In spite of many of our wimin attending private parties, and some staying home to celebrate in their own personal way, some 70 wimin came together to bring in the year 1997 by dancing. So many new faces! No matter the event, there's always new wimin to meet and greet, and I believe that this becomes more the case with each passing year.

There were about 15 wimin available to help in setting up for the dance and a very good number helping to clean up afterwards. Our community wimin seem to be held in high regard by the womon scheduling Pickwick events. She knows who we are and still gives us first choice in scheduling. Our dance committee members, **Lavender Rhythm**, are personable and responsible so Pickwick personnel is happy to do business with us.

We are getting some feedback on the popularity of our dances. Many outreach wimin are making a point of attending our dances for some of the following reasons: there are more of them (4-5 per year), there is an indoors designated smoking area, and drinking is permitted. The music has been very good and the company is great. **Thank you, Lavender Rhythm, for enriching our lives.**

YOUR SMILE IS A GIFT
YOU CAN SHARE WITH OTHERS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday
7-9 p.m.
For info, write:
LSG
P.O. Box 1612
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Lavender Rhythm

Sat., Mar. 15th
Pickwick Place
219 N. 4th St., Niles
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
$7.00 admission at the door
Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Sherrill and Lori 684-6913

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze .....219-254-8676 (Beeper)
Kaye & Marcia 219-271-0338
Jean 219-259-2177

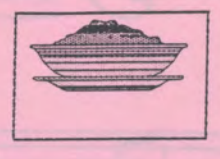
THERE IS AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FREE SPEECH AND CHEAP TALK.

BIBLICAL ISSUES

Reverend Martha Carroll of the Southside Christian Church, will be teaching a six week seminar on homosexuality and the Bible and how one can answer those people who use Biblical verses to condemn Gays and Lesbians.

For more information on attending, please call or write Rev. Carroll, 1329 E. Jackson Rd., South Bend, In. 46614 , Telephone 219-291-1156

Southside C.C. is having an **Ash Wednesday Service,** February 12, at 7:00 p.m. Please join them for this service



THIRD FRIDAY OUT

Guido & Murphy's
501 Niles Ave.
South Bend
Friday, Feb. 21st, 6:30 p.m.
Call by Tues, Feb. 18th for reservations.
Suggestions of future places would be appreciated, call Sherrill or Lori at 684-6913.

Viv's Creativity Salon

Last Sunday of Every Month
Feb. 23rd, 1:00 p.m.
417 Michigan St, Berrien Springs, MI
Bring poem, stories, paintings, songs, etc...SHARE self expression or your favorite creative energy of other wommin.
For more info, call Viv: 616-473-6150 or Lisa 219-299-9241

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Midwest B/L/G College Conference
Feb 21-23 at Indiana State University in Terre Hute. For info call 812-237-6916 ext 1, email MBLGCC97@indstate.edu

Olivia Cruises

February, 1997	Tahiti Cruise
March, 1997	Copper Mtn, Colorado
April, 1997	Mexican Carribean
July, 1997	Greek Isles/Turkey
October, 1997	Huatulco, Mexico

call 1-800-631-6277 for information

Notre Dame Women's Basketball

Feb.	6	Syracuse 7 p.m.
	12	Boston College 7 p.m.
	19	Villanova 7 p.m.
	22	Seton Hall 7 p.m.

GETTING THERE IS HALF THE BATTLE AND MORE THAN HALF THE FUN.

THE JOY OF US

by Lee Lynch

We watched from a window of the small restaurant as seven men pulled into the parking lot: a motley-looking bunch, clean-shaven, bearded, in neat work clothes or polka-dot shorts, long-haired, balding, from twenty-something to fifty-something.

Darn. Here we were to celebrate Catch's birthday, and now we'd have to put up with a clump of beer-guzzling loud guys having some kind of stag blowout.

The waitress brusquely presented our food. Lover and I toasted Catch and dug into the delicacies. It's always fun to discover great food in a divey-looking eatery. The ambiance was *not* exactly your trendy gay watering hole.

There was something about that long-haired fella, though. Naw, a blonde surfer-type with a wide feminine streak.

A woman swaggered past on her way to the ladies room. The three of us looked at one another, looked over to the booth where she'd been sitting. Yup. Another woman.

"Sure," said Catch matter-of-factly, "You see a lot of dykes here. The food's good."

Was that boy wearing nail polish?

Another woman went by. Short haired except for the long thin pigtail down her back, wearing retro hippie-garb.

And then four of the men began to sing. Why, they were a barbershop quartet! They rolled out an exquisitely rehearsed "Java" and not a face in sight was without a smile.

"Hey!" Catch said. "That's the group that opened when the Portland Gay Men's Chorus was down here."

We applauded. So did everyone else. Including the end booth with two old heterosexual non-gay couples. The men went over to serenade them with "Blue Moon." A singer fell to one knee and extended an arm, crooning with gay abandon. "Happy anniversary!" we heard them say.

By this time there was no doubt. These guys were good, they were generous with song and they were gay. Their meals came and things quieted down, but we joked about having hired the group to celebrate Catch's birthday.

After dinner the men were primed. The little dive was transformed into a scene from a fifties musical where the numbers are done in outrageously unrealistic settings. Hay wagons, the streets of Paris, a rooftop in New York. Well, why not Route 249 in a dingy mill town?

They got up and sang an old rock song at our booth. One of the old men headed for the cashier, dipping at the knees, sha-booming with his lips. His wife came along the aisle after him and the songsters whirled on her, fingers cheerfully pointing as if in this musical, she was the star.

The woman didn't miss her cue. She did a quick, studied double-take and pointed at herself, eyebrows raised, then grinned and danced in place.

By this time, our fellow diners would have to have been from Saturn not to notice the show had turned camp. The counter-tenor with the glittery nail polish and long curls, Aaron Logsdon, I later learned, was not shy. Nor were Dave Deller, Tom Walker or Al Robins. They were swooning in one another's arms, dancing together and getting pinched by the waitresses.

They were unstoppable! In the parking lot a group of young couples, newborn babe in arms, had an encounter of the queer kind. A commercial strip was transformed into yet another set for this standing-room-only musical. Who needs Broadway? Right there in the town where two lesbians were murdered less than a year ago- - for being out lesbians- - these carolers of goodwill were reaching out to the straights.

They're called Delusions of Grandeur. Their card claims, "We're the best barbershop quartet in the universe." True, and like all our choruses, the men of Delusions of Grandeur are musical ambassadors.

Copyright Lee Lynch 1996

COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends
P.O.Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120
(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. **COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!**

 # 57 Attractive, big hearted, outdoors lover, seeks friend and companion to enjoy and share life with. Winter is upon us, wouldn't it be nice to have someone to cuddle up with and watch a movie on those chilly evenings. If you are sincere and enjoy the things I do, please write this 31 year old. Hope to hear from you soon.

Pizza Plus

Neither cold, nor snow, nor wind, nor icy roads kept **3rd. Friday Out** from being a happening thing. Ten brave wimin overcame the 1997 Blizzard to attend **Bruno's** for pizza. We enjoyed exhilarating conversation, as we met old friends and new....(There are always new faces.), ate giant sized, delicious pizzas, while a huge fireplace blazed nearby.

There was cake to help celebrate a birthday and some networking that we hope to prove beneficial. One of our "new" wimin thinks she can get wholesale prices on some picnic foods as we begin planning for this summer's canoe trip down the St. Joseph River. That's another great even to look forward to.

Hope to see you next **3rd. Friday Out** at **Guido and Murphy's**.
(Thanks to Sherrill and Lori for being hostest with the mostest!!!)

staff

HEALTH BEAT

DRUG-FREE TREATMENT WORKS BETTER

A new Canadian study reveals that just a few hours of physical therapy is far more effective than anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen in treating the pain and stiffness of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), which affects nine times as many women as men. Researchers found that patients who were treated with just three hours of physical therapy over a six-week period had less discomfort than patients who only took medication.
from Woman's World

TOMATOES, CARROTS & FRUIT FOR SKIN

Chalk up yet another potential protection for individuals who make a habit of eating fruit and veggies- - this time for the prevention of the skin condition, *psoriasis.* In a study in Italy, people without psoriasis were more likely than persons with psoriasis to eat fresh fruit two times a day. What else were they likely to eat? Tomatoes every day and carrots three times a week. This study doesn't prove that eating fruits and vegetables lowers the risk of psoriasis, but it's another hint that diets high in produce really do pay off.
from Prevention Magazine

IN THE NEWS

LOCAL WOMIN "IN THE NEWS"

Wilma Harder, silversmith and jeweler from Goshen, Ind. recently was featured in an article in the South Bend Tribune. Last September she opened her craft shop, Harder-to-Make Jewelry in the Goshen Old Bag Factory at 1100 Goshen Ave. Many artisans are drawn to the Factory which opened in 1984. Harder, 36, came late to her craft. In 1990, while working for the Elkhart Parks and Recreation Dept., she took a jewelry making class at Goshen College. Her first project- a layered silver ring depicting the sun, moon and stars was a success that she still wears on her hand.

Wilma spent her childhood in Minnesota where her interests in rocks started. While she uses rocks extensively in her jewelry, she is not a lapidary. Instead she buys cut and polished stones from a bulk supplier. Among the stones she uses are agate, turquoise, obsidian, aquamarine and bloodstone. Wilma also uses coral and the metals hematite and malachite.

Nature and the mythology of North American Indians inspire many of her designs. First the design is sketched out on paper and then comes the delicate work of shaping silver to the design, fitting it with stones and finishing each piece for display and sale. It's exacting work that requires specialized tools, from tiny saw blades and files to pliers and hammers.

Due to market demands, Wilma spends more time making earrings and necklaces than the silver pieces that launched her career. Wilma moved to the Old Bag Factory after making custom jewelry in her home and trying unsuccessfully to sell her jewelry on consignment through a stained-glass story at the Factory.

"In order to sell," she says, "You've got to be here, with that personal contact," since buying jewelry involves intensely personal tastes. " When people show an interest, it fosters my creativity."

HARDER-TO-MAKE JEWELRY
is having its Grand Opening, February 7th & 8th

THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT LAST FOREVER: Faith, Hope, and Love; but the greatest of these in Love.
Corinthians 1:13
***None of us knows what lies ahead for us in the new year- - - What changes, challenges and opportunities may come along. But the one constant thing in all our lives is the love of our family and friends - - and with that, we know all things are possible.

EDITORIAL

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE

It seems to me that many people have spent a lot of valuable time mailing out letters to find out if businesses, professionals, etc. will welcome lesbians and gays at their establishments and/or hire them as employees.

We must remember first that we are Wimmin and any referrals should be based upon how we are treated as Wimmin. It would be wonderful if more businesses and services were owned and operated by Wimmin in our local community.

I propose that *OPEN ARMS* start a list of services and businesses based on positive personal experiences. I invite all of you to send us your recommendations based on your experiences. The following are mine.

AUTO REPAIR....M.D. LILLIE on North 31 Mark is very reliable and will only do what is essential. He explains "things in English" and treats you with respect. I have also found him to be reasonable.

VETERINARIAN..... Dr. Hans at the New Carlisle Animal Hospital ...If you can make this short drive, you will be pleased with the service, personnel and prices (considerably less than S. Bend)

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS.... From the salesman to the installer to the repairman, QUALITY WINDOWS in Elkhart, this company comes highly recommended. Their prices were lower than the other five estimates, and they won't try to sell you what you don't need.

DENTIST..... Dr. Wes Magnuson, S. Bend. He is highly efficient and has an excellent staff.

Please tell these businesses that Kaye recommended them! If you can add to this list, please do. We need a list of electricians, plumbers, general contractors, and any other services you have had positive experiences with. Also, if you provide any of these services, we will be happy to make your name known to our subscribers.....**KAYE**

OPEN ARMS SUPPORTERS

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ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!!

In January of 1997, we changed the way advertisements are billed. In order to facilitate record keeping, we are now renewing on the calendar year from January thru December. The cost will remain at $10.00 for a business size insert, or $1.00 a month for a limited time insert.

PLEASE DIRECT ALL ADVERTISING INQUIRES TO OUR POST OFFICE BOX .

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!!!

In order to facilitate record keeping, Open Arms asks that when you move, please send us a change of address ASAP. If you have fallen on hard times and feel that you cannot afford the newsletter, please let us know and we will continue to mail you the newsletter so that you can be aware of what is happening in our community.

In addition to our standard rate of $10.00 a year, we would also like to offer a special subscription rate of $25.00 for 3 years. This new rate will help us to save postage and handling charges.

Subscription form: Open Arms-$10.00/year or $25.00/3 Years

Name_____
Address_____
City_____State_____Zip_____
Telephone Number_____

Make checks payable to *Open Arms* and mail to:
P.O.Box 845, Mishawaka, Ind. 46546

The PET REFUGE, 2300 W. Sixth St. (4 blocks east of Ironwood & just south of LWE) Mishawaka, is continuing to accept aluminum cans to help with their operating funds. They are also seeking additional members, volunteers, and/ or sponsors to help with the animals. Donations of dog and cat supplies are greatly appreciated. Contributions are tax deductible. (219-256-0886)

OPEN ARMS SUPPORTERS

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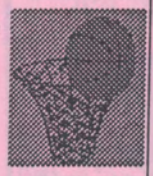
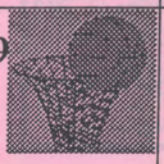
February

1997

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 WGCS 91.1 FM presents "A Women's Circle" every Sunday 6-7pm	3	4 support group 7-9 p.m.	5 N.O.W. MEETING 7 p.m.	6 ND vs Syracuse 7 p.m.	7	8 Birthday Wishes to DES I.
9 OPEN ARMS MEETING 6:30 p.m.	10	11 support group 7-9 p.m.	12  ND vs BC 7pm	13 best wishes STACY S.	14 Happy Birthday MONA S.	15
16	17	18 support group 7-9 p.m. RSVP due for 3rd Friday out	19  ND vs Villanova 7 p.m.	20	21 3rd Friday Out WOMENS FEST Century Center South Bend, tonight & Sat.	22 ND vs Seton Hall 7:30 p.m.
23 **ABL Playoffs** Viv's Creativity Salon 1pm, Berrien Springs,Mi *PFlag 2-4pm*	24	25 support group 7-9 p.m.	26	27	28 ANNUAL AIN'T I a WOMAN AWARDS 5-9p Chas. Martin Center	